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WILKINS UPDIKE.

AN ADDRESS

TO THE

PEOPLE OF RHODE-ISLAND,

UPON THE CLAIMS OF

WILKINS UPDIKE,

TO A SEAT IN THE

Congress of the United States.

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To the Whigs of the Western Congressional District.

On Tuesday next an election is to be held in this district, to choose a Representative to the next Congress of the United States. Two individuals are in nomination—*Wilkins Updike, Law and Order, and Benjamin B. Thurston, Democrat.—The Whigs have no candidate,* and it has become a question, Can any whig vote consistently for *Wilkins Updike?* Can any whig vote consistently for *Benj. B. Thurston?*

Who is *Wilkins Updike?* and what has been his history?—Is he a whig—a democrat—or a neutral?—To the people of this district, it would seem hardly necessary to go into a history of his political career. We know what he *was*: we have a right to know what he *is*. We know that *Wilkins Updike was* a steady friend and supporter of *Andrew Jackson* and *Martin Van Buren*, and throughout their administrations supported them and their measures. Has he changed his opinions? When Andrew Jackson, by his open and palpable violation of the Constitution, as the whigs then thought and still think, inflicted a wound upon the institutions of the Country, which will remain, as long as the Constitution endures, where was Wilkins Updike? Upholding his administration and defending all its measures! It cannot be forgotten, that he was considered the very *beau ideal* of Jacksonism, and he was so considered when that old and ultra democrat, Gov. Fenner, voted for Congress in 1833, ☞"*Wilkins Updike, the only true Jackson candidate.*" Dutee J. Pearce was not democratic or loco foco enough for the ultra *democracy* of Gov. Fenner! *Wilkins Updike* could only represent his views as the "*only true Jackson candidate.*" Subsequently when the Government, at home and abroad, was brought into *discredit* and *disgrace* by the profligacy and corruption of *Martin Van Buren*, where was *Wilkins Updike?* supporting every measure of his administration and throwing every obstacle in the way of the *whig party.* This is in brief where *Wilkins Updike* was. Where *is he now?* has he changed his views upon national questions? If so, when—how—and why? Is it not a part of the creed of the party to which he belongs, that upon national questions no tests are to be required, and that as these Law and Order Democrats retain *their* opinion, and Law and Order Whigs *theirs?* If Wilkins Updike is a Whig, belongs to the

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whig party, and is willing to be considered a whig candidate, why is he unwilling to take the *name* and trust to a *whig convention?* Why is he nominated by a Law and Order Caucus, if he is *really a whig*, and the Law and Order party is identical with the *whig party?* If he is a whig and his party is really the *whig party*, why do they not give us some declaration of *principles* to which they consider their candidate pledged? Why nominate him at a Law and Order Convention? Did they pass any *whig resolutions?* They have since dropped the title of Law and Order and call him the WHIG CANDIDATE? Who made him the *whig candidate?* They have had whig meetings called, but who took part in these meetings, such whigs as *Lemuel H. Arnold, James F. Simmons, William Peckham, Thomas Whipple*, and others? or such WHIGS as ☞ *Elisha R. Potter, John Brown Francis, Christopher Allen*, and *William Sprague?*

You know, fellow citizens, that no true and tried friend of the good old Whig cause, *would* or *could* take part in their proceedings. But when they hold Whig meetings in *name*, why not declare Whig principles? Will any one show you the first resolution to that effect? It cannot be done. "Whig RESOLUTIONS would drive off Law and Order Democrats," say Potter, Francis, & Co. "Send for Ames and Greene to TALK WHIG as much as you please—but nothing in BLACK and WHITE. That WON'T do."

Now, I ask seriously, is the Whig party to be thus trifled with? Is it any longer to be under the influence, control, and dictation of a clique of *Providence Politicians*—its bitterest and most determined enemies—or shall the real Whigs dissolve at once and forever all connexion with the unclean thing? ☞ *Wm. Sprague has said that* Wilkins Upkins, shall be elected if he has money enough to do it ☜ It is for you to decide whether this MONEY POWER shall prevail over the good sense of the whole Whig party in the State.

And on what ground do they ask you to vote for Updike. They have all at once become so much interested in the Whig cause that they say the next Congress may depend upon this single vote. They know this is not so. The Washington Union—Journal of Commerce, and presses of all political complexions admit that that question is settled, and that however this election may go, the ☞ WHIGS ARE SURE OF A MAJORITY OF FROM 10 TO 20 in the next House of Representatives. ☜ This is admitted, but you, fellow citizens will probably not be informed of the fact until after the election—because the only possible *excuse you could* have for voting *for Updike* would then be *withdrawn!*

We had in the last Congress a Whig Representative from this District, the Hon. *Lemuel H. Arnold*—why should he be turned out to make room for such a WHIG as Wilkins Updike? We have had in the Senate of the United States for the last six years a Whig Senator ☞Hon. JAMES F. SIMMONS.☜ Why should he be turned out to make room for such a Whig as John H. Clarke? Why should the whig party be in the hands of E. R. Potter and his associates, to the exclusion of such men as JAMES F. SIMMONS and his friends? When you can answer these questions to the satisfaction of any TRUE, CONSISTENT and DEVOTED WHIG, you may vote for *Wilkins Updike, but not till then!*

Have you not had enough of such management? Who did more than any man in the State—as much as any man in the Union to bring on the Mexican War, with all its horrors, wrongs and woes? ☞ELISHA R. POTTER! *the late Law and Order Representative!*☜ When he voted for the ANNEXATION OF TEXAS, *he voted in effect to bring on the War!* When he wrote to *Matthew Waite* that the annexation of Texas would be of more "advantage to the North than the South,"* he expressed an opinion which carried out, has *involved* us in this BLOODY WAR! When he received the following commendation from the Charleston Mercury, he was applauded for *his attachment* to the INSTITUTION OF SLAVERY. This ultra Southern, Calhoun, Slavery, War organ, thus speaks of the resolutions for the Annexation of Texas.

☞"The Resolutions you will see in the papers. They provide for admitting Texas as a State, leave Texas her debts and lands—provide for Texas being divided into several States, and adopt the Missouri compromise.

"This, however, would have clearly failed but for the aid of nine Whigs. Their names are as follows. Messrs. Brown, Peyton, Ashe and Senter, of Tennesee; Messrs. Clinch and Stevens, of Georgia; Mr. Dillet, of Alabama; Mr. Newton, of Virginia; and STRANGEST OF ALL, THE ONLY WHIG FROM THE WHOLE WEST AND THE NORTH, MR.

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* Extract from a letter from Hon. E. R. POTTER, to MATTHEW WAITE, Esq., one of the truest Whigs in the State.

"DEAR SIR—I hope our Legislature will not pass any resolutions against Texas, as the only sympathy we get is from the South; and we shall need their votes to put down Burke's Report, and with their aid, which I have no doubt we shall have, we can do it. THE ANEXATION, IN POINT OF INTEREST, WILL BE MUCH MORE FOR THE ADVANTAGE OF THE NORTH THAN OF THE SOUTH.

Yours, &c. (Signed,) E. R. POTTER.

Washington, Jan. 11, 1845.

POTTER, OF RHODE-ISLAND, voted *in committee* for it, although in the House against it. With the Democratic party the measure would have failed, although having near seventy majority in the House. The Northern and Western Whigs throughout stood in opposition to every proposition, to the great disappointment of the New York and Northern Democrats, who calculated on their aid to carry their project and defeat annexation. *The turning point was the vote on Mr. Brown's amendment.*"

Now who is the most devoted and zealous friend to the election of Wilkins Updike? ☞ELISHA R. POTTER!☜— Who gets up his meetings, advocates his election through the public papers, and *vouches* for his *Whigism* with WHIGS, and for his *Democracy* with *Democrats?* ELISHA R. POTTER! Are you ready to take such a voucher—to rely on such an endorser. I trust not!

Are you, in a word, willing as WHIGS, to *be responsible* for such a *Representative?* It will be too late to repudiate him after he is elected! If you vote for him, upon yourselves be the responsibility!

Again, fellow citizens, if Wilkins Updike was as true a Whig as ever lived, he could not receive my support, coming forward under the circumstances that he does, and nominated by the party that he is! Are the real WHIGS to bear every species of insult and abuse, and wrong from the Law and Order leaders with a "patient shrug?" Must sufference "be the badge of all our tribe?' Are we free, intelligent and responsible men, or are we to be *nosed* about by Francis, Potter, Sprague & Co., and have it thrown in our teeth that we may *help ourselves if we can?*— Are we capable of choosing for ourselves a candidate to support? Or must we follow the dictation of College Hill, through the mouths of their attorneys and humble servants, Ames & Greene? On Tuesday next you will decide whether you are your own masters, or are willing to be driven like sheep to the shambles by those who claim to control you!

If the political complexion of the next House of Representatives depended upon your vote, and I could *believe* either from the PAST HISTORY of WILKINS UPDIKE, or his PRESENT ASSOCIATES, that he would be *true and faithful* to the Whig cause, I might be willing to sacrifice what I consider to be the true interests of the WHIGS of Rhode-Island, and give him my vote. But under existing circumstances I can see no possible excuse for any consistent *Whig*—for any friend of *James F. Simmons*, of *Lemuel H. Arnold*, or of *Charles Jackson*, thus to throw himself into the hands and power of THEIR bitterest enemies!"

I need not say to you, fellow citizens, that every means that importunity can beg, or money buy, will be used to persuade you to vote for *Wilkins Updike.* You will be told that James F. Simmons, Lemuel H. Arnold, Charles Jackson and their friends intend to give him their support. It is FALSE! and you may depend upon it, not one of these *tried and faithful Whigs* will be found in such company.

For the above, and many other reasons I cannot give my vote for *Wilkins Updike,* and thus virtually admit that every principle for which the *true Whigs* of the State have for the last two or three years been contending, is unsound and worthless! Will the Law and Order leaders give us any credit for magnanimity, if we adopt their candidate? Will they not rather consider us an unprincipled body of men, ready to be bought, or driven into any party that the *money power* may dictate?

What will the Providence Journal say, on announcing the election of *Wilkins Updike,* if he should be elected, even though you should be induced to vote for him; it will be something as follows.—"*We have the gratifying intelligence to announce to our readers that the Hon. Wilkins Updike, the Law and Order candidate,*" *(not Whig then)* "*has been elected to Congress for the Western District,* by *Fifty majority over Benj. B. Thurston, Democratic. This result is peculiarly gratifying to the friends of the L. & O. party, as Mr. Thurston received the silent or active support not only of his own political friends, but of the disaffected supporters of Mr. Simmons, Gov. Arnold, and Gov. Jackson. We hope these gentlemen have at last learned that they cannot break up the Law and Order party, and establish the, so called, Whig party upon its ruins!*"

Such, fellow citizens, will be the language addressed to you. If you do not wish to hear it, see to it that *Wilkins Updike,* is NOT ELECTED!

I think you must be satisfied with me, that no whig can, under the circumstances, give his support to Wilkins Updike. Can you, with me, consistently, give your vote for *Benjamin B. Thurston?*

In what respect is Gov. Thurston more objectionable than *Wilkins Updike?* I do not contend that he is a whig. He is openly and fairly a member of the Democratic party. He has always opposed the whig party—but not more violently than John Brown Francis, Elisha R. Potter, Judge Wescott and others, who now advocate the election of Updike! He never belonged to the Law and Order party, it is true, but we doubt whether he ever did as much for DORRISM as *William Sprague, John H. Clarke,* or *Mr. Updike's* very particular

and zealous friend *Mr. Emanuel Rice!!* He did not, it is true, join the Law and Order party during the *Dorr* rebellion: and it is equally true that he did not offer to give ☞FIFTEEN HUNDRED DOLLARS *towards carrying on the Express Newspaper in the city of Providence, to overthrow the legal Government of the State, as William Sprague did!*☜

He never, that we know, favored whig conventions, neither did he ever, as *John H. Clarke* did, when *Sprague* was defeated for Senator, swear that there "*should never be another* WHIG CONVENTION *in the State!*"

We have no doubt Gov. Thurston would go with the Democratic party on mere party questions, but farther than this we do not believe. We know him to be a *friend* of the TARIFF, an opponent of *Slavery*, and in favor of the "*Wilmot Proviso.*" Do we know *as much* of *Wilkins Updike?*

But the main reason why I shall give my vote to Benj. B. Thurston is, that without injuring the whig cause, it will teach the so called Law and Order party that the true whigs of this district cannot be *kicked, cuffed, whipped* and *bought* by all the MONEY or threats of all the *Francis'*, *Potters*, and *Spragues* in the State, and that I prefer an open opponent to a treacherous, deceptive, and I may say MALICIOUS and CORRUPT ALLY!

When Gov. Arnold was a candidate for Congress, Governor Thurston gave him his support, and SECURED HIS ELECTION. Without that support, Gov. Arnold could not have been chosen. He did this, because he knew that a vote for *Arnold* was a vote against the Law and Order party, and not because he was in favor of a whig. He knew that the situation of parties in the House of Representatives at Washington would not be varied by the election of a whig member from the western district. For similar reasons, and because the whigs are *sure* of a majority in the next House of Representatives, let this election go as it will, I shall cast my vote for *Benjamin B. Thurston.* In so doing, I feel that I shall confer the greatest benefit upon the real interests of the whig party, by aiding in the overthrow of the most corrupt and venal party, that ever disgraced this State under the *glorious*, but much abused title of LAW AND ORDER.

In what has been said, I have avoided any notice of the private characters of the candidates presented for your suffrages. It is with their political and public course that we have to deal, and far be it from me to lift the veil that covers the traits of their private lives. If it is true as his enemies say, that Wilkins Updike is untrue to the *solemn pledge* he has openly given to

the *Temperance cause*—if it *be true* that he is illiberal in his religious sentiments, and believes no man can be a Christian who does not *belong* to the *Church of England*,*—if it be true that he is coarse, violent and abusive in his political and professional course,—so much so that there is scarcely a man in the District who has not at some time felt the venom of his tongue,—if all these things be so, they are no affair of mine, nor do I urge them against him. Let him stand or fall by his *political opinions;* bearing always in mind, that in political as well as other matters, a man *shall be judged by the company which he keeps !*

Fellow citizens, I have detained you too long. Again let me say to you, if you value the Whig cause—if you would avenge the *wrongs and injuries* manifested towards such Whigs as James F. Simmons, Lemuel H. Arnold, and Charles Jackson—if you would administer a wholesome rebuke to *such whigs* as *John Brown Francis, Elisha R. Potter and Wm. Sprague, VOTE AGAINST Wilkins Updike!* To remain *inactive* will not be sufficient. Every vote will be needed to defeat him—and with your votes it can be done! When that event is accomplished, the self constituted leaders of the Law and Order party may admit that there is some *influence* yet left, beside their own—and that they cannot longer trample upon the rights, and insult the feelings of the old, steadfast and faithful friends of the Whig Cause.

A TRUE WHIG.

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* ☞ "Among the inhabitants of Exeter, West Greenwich, and other TORY TOWNS there were no EPISCOPALIANS." History of the Narragansett Church, by Wilkins Updike. pp. 245.☜

How do the people of these ancient towns like *this slur* upon the memories of their *patriotic* ancestors? Were their fathers TORIES as Updike asserts?

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